

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

15 January 2003

B5-0038/2003 }
B5-0040/2003 }
B5-0044/2003 }
B5-0046/2003 }
B5-0050/2003 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Concepció Ferrer and Bernd Posselt on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Francisca Sauquillo Pérez del Arco, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Raimon Obiols i Germà and Carlos Carnero González, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Marieke Sanders-Ten Holte, Carles-Alfred Gasòliba i Böhm and Isidoro Sánchez García, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Didier Rod and Marie Anne Isler Béguin, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Pedro Marset Campos and Laura González Álvarez, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0038/2003),
- PPE-DE (B5-0040/2003),
- ELDR (B5-0044/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0046/2003),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0050/2003),

RC\486484EN.doc

PE 326.562}
PE 326.564}
PE 326.568}
PE 326.570}
PE 326.574} RC1

EN

EN

on Equatorial Guinea

RC\486484EN.doc

PE 326.562}
PE 326.564}
PE 326.568}
PE 326.570}
PE 326.574} RC1

EN

European Parliament resolution on Equatorial Guinea

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its earlier resolutions on the situation in Equatorial Guinea,
 - having regard to the EU Presidency's declaration of 18 December 2002 on the elections in Equatorial Guinea¹,
 - having regard to the international obligations assumed by Equatorial Guinea following its accession to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the UN Convention on Torture and Other Cruel and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment,
- A. disturbed at the appalling human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea,
- B. whereas the elections held on 15 December 2002, resulting, according to the National Electoral Commission, in more than 97% of the votes going to the incumbent president, Mr Teodoro Obiang, were not handled in a democratic manner pursuant to the national constitution,
- C. having regard to the inequality of access, notably to radio and television, as between the incumbent and the other candidates, and to the acts of violence perpetrated against supporters of the opposition candidates,
- D. whereas the government has repeatedly ignored international recommendations to initiate a process towards a genuine democratic system, to invite UN and EU electoral assistance missions and to open up a dialogue with all political forces,
- E. whereas during previous elections the minimum conditions of transparency and electoral guarantees have not been respected,
- F. whereas there was a lack of independence on the part of the electoral administration and, in particular, of the national electoral commission,
- G. whereas the Secretary-General of the main opposition party was imprisoned,
- H. whereas all opposition candidates decided to withdraw from the electoral race,

¹ 15756/01/2002

- I. whereas at least 59 prisoners of conscience have been sentenced following a trial which appears to have been organised with the sole aim of eliminating the last peaceful political opponents,
- J. whereas prisoners are not allowed visits from family, friends, religious representatives, lawyers or medical personnel,
- K. whereas the judiciary in Equatorial Guinea has often come under international scrutiny, including the incident in 2002 when 68 opposition activists were sentenced to between six and twenty years in jail for allegedly plotting to overthrow President Obiang Nguema,
- L. whereas Equatorial Guinea is among the world's fastest rising oil producers, and President Theodore Obiang Nguema is accused of hoarding oil revenues resulting from this production,
- M. whereas the EU has suspended its cooperation with the government of Equatorial Guinea,
1. Deplores the political conditions under which the elections were held, which flawed the electoral process and resulted in the elections being neither free nor fair;
 2. Calls once again for the annulment of the unfair political trial of opposition leaders that took place in the spring of 2002;
 3. Calls for the setting-up of a true democratic process and the strengthening of the rule of law in Equatorial Guinea; urges the government to take initiatives, without further delay, aimed at moving towards a genuine democratic system, by opening up an all-inclusive political dialogue with the opposition parties, by ceasing the persecution of opposition members and their families, and by respecting the international undertakings to respect and protect fundamental human rights;
 4. Strongly urges the government to extend a full amnesty to members of the political opposition, and to do so without delay; calls, consequently, for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and their families, and for the establishment of the necessary conditions and guarantees to allow all political options to be present in the democratic life of Equatorial Guinea, both at home and in exile;
 5. Welcomes the announcement by President Obiang concerning the holding of a national conference on the national justice system, and expects this to lead the way to the establishment of guarantees for the respect of human rights and the strengthening of the rule of law;
 6. Invites the Council and Commission to be firm in their relations with the government of Equatorial Guinea;

7. Asks the Commission to draw up a report on the impact on democracy and human rights of the policies of the oil companies operating in Equatorial Guinea;
8. Calls on the Council to recommend to the EU Member States which are members of the UN Commission on Human Rights that the mandate of the UN special rapporteur for Equatorial Guinea should be prolonged;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the AU, and the Government of Equatorial Guinea.